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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Masatoshi CHIBA

Group Art Unit: 1649

Serial No : 09/926,661

Examiner: Daniel E. Kolker

Filed : February 28, 2002

For : LYOPHILIZED HGF PREPARATIONS

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Window, Mail Stop AF  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed February 16, 2006, which sets a three-month shortened statutory period for response, ending May 16, 2006.

Inasmuch as this paper is filed on May 16, 2006, this Response is timely filed and no fee is required. However, if any extension of time and/or any additional fee is required for consideration of this Response, including any fee required for entry of an Examiner's Amendment, the Office is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Entry of the instant amendment, with reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.